

ABSTRACT

[44] Certain aspects of the invention for producing a secure key may comprise a secure key generator that receives a first, second and third input keys and utilizes these keys to generate a first output key. The first, second and third input keys may be a customer key, customer key selection and key variation, respectively. The first output key may be generated so that it is unique, differs from the first input key and is not a weak or semi-weak key. The first, second and third input keys may be mapped to generate mapped output key data and an intermediate key generated based on the first input key. The intermediate key and the output key data may be scrambled to create a scrambled output. At least a portion of the output key data may be masked and XORed with the scrambled output to generate the first output key.